

Anthony Butler to Andrew Jackson, February 23, 1832, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

COLONEL ANTHONY BUTLER TO JACKSON.

Mexico City, February 23, 1832.

. . . . Your letter dated on the 9th and 20th December last was received during my illness, and I have but read it now, having to go through the fatigue of decyphering which in my feeble state was a tedious affair. Your injunctions shall be attended to, and obeyed to the letter so far as all my efforts will enable me to carry them into effect—from my present state of debility however I fear some time will elapse before I shall be competent to any mental effort. All my arrangements are made, the ground well explored, the strong and weak points on either side as I think well understood; so that whenever the time arrives for me to begin I feel satisfied in being able to settle the question, on the one side or the other with very little delay. If I can succeed at all, there is no doubt of my convincing the other side of the propriety of the measure very readily—if on the contrary I should fail in producing this conviction after fully unfolding my views upon the subject I shall despair of time adding to the chances of success. In the negotiation I can foresee many and great difficulties, yet I believe it will be in my power to vanquish them all; and my opinion will remain unchanged untill I make the attempt and fail. If my health is restored as soon as I hope it will be a few weeks will serve to test the result of my efforts, of which you will have immediate notice.